

ROLL OUT: WEST LAKE LANDFILL OFF-SITE AIR MONITORING DATA SUMMARY

DATE: Week of January 19, 2015

ACTION: EPA Region 7 will release a data summary of the off-site air monitoring data collected by EPA since mid-2014.

OVERVIEW:

In mid-2014 EPA Region 7 installed five off-site air monitoring stations in locations surrounding the West Lake Landfill. The purpose of the system is to establish baseline levels of landfill constituents which may be present in the air, including radiological and non-radiological, for reference during any construction or excavation on site.

REGION 7 EMPHASIS KEY MESSAGES/STATEMENTS:

- The larger St. Louis metro area continues to work to meet EPA established health based standards for air quality. The St. Louis area is currently in violation of the ozone standard but is now monitoring attainment for the PM standard.
- The air quality around West Lake Landfill is consistent with air quality in the greater St. Louis Metro area
- The air quality of the greater St. Louis Metro area is consistent with other large, industrial, midwest cities
- EPA's monitoring system sampled for typical solid waste landfill gases, such as volatile organic compounds (VOCs), sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, and hydrogen sulfide. In summary, the results indicate the levels around the West Lake landfill area are consistent with concentrations measured throughout the greater St. Louis metropolitan area, and within the range seen at other sites across the country.

Regarding VOCs

- EPA monitored for 38 analytes, 37 of which are also monitored by St. Louis National Air Toxics Trend Sites (NATTS)
- Of the 37, all but 5 had median values recorded at or below St. Louis NATTS Site median values for 2013. These 5 in STL were found to be in ranges consistent with other NATTS sites in similar locations across the country
- There are a number of emission sources in the immediate area for these 5 analytes which could be contributing to monitored levels

Regarding Radiation

- For Alpha and Beta radiation, all monitored median values are consistent with median values for St. Charles site (station #5)

- Gamma radiation monitors showed variability in values consistent with what would be expected to see given variability of geological sources in area

Regarding MDNR

- Due to odor concerns expressed by local residents, the MDNR employed a focused monitor campaign to evaluate levels of odor-causing sulfur compounds including hydrogen sulfide near the Bridgeton and Westlake landfills. MDNR has indicated that there have been no exceedances of their health based benchmarks.
- We are encouraged by MDNR's on-going efforts to meet air quality standards. Concentrations of ozone and PM have decreased by 14% and 19%, respectively since 2000. And, according to EPA's toxic release inventory, emissions of air toxics in the St. Louis area have decreased by 61% between 2003 and 2011.
- EPA is committed to its partnership with MDNR to monitor, evaluate and improve air quality in St. Louis, both in the larger metro area and in Bridgeton... now and into the future.

Anticipated Reactions:

The media and the public will be anxious to read the data summary. Expect significant press coverage from major St. Louis media with the Post-Dispatch and Public Radio leading the coverage. Expect community groups and environmental groups to thoroughly review data summary and submit questions to the agency. The media may also reach out to environmental groups and community members for comment.

MATERIALS:

External:

- Media Advisory: distributed Friday January 16 to invite media to a telephone press conference
- Press Release: distributed to media at time of telephone press conference on Jan. 20, announcing findings of off-site air monitoring data summary
- West Lake Update: provide a more in depth discussion of data summary to public

EPA Contacts for this Action:

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- Mike Jay, AWMD, x7460
- Josh Tapp, AWMD, x7606

Recommended Local Official Contacts:

In addition to the Congressional briefing and the standard elected official notification conducted by OPA during roll-outs, Brad Vann and Ben Washburn will conduct calls on Tuesday, Jan. 20 with Matt LaVanchy, Mayor Bowers, John Basilico of Earth City, MCE, and Just Moms STL.

ROLL-OUT SCHEDULE/Timeline:

9/16/15 – OPA issues media advisory announcing telephone press conference for Tuesday, January 20

9/20/15 – Regional Administrator conducts briefing with West Lake Congressional delegation

9/20/15 – OPA publishes data summary to West Lake Landfill web page

9/20/15 – OPA issues press release announcing the availability of data summary on web page, provides link to web page

9/20/15 – Regional Administrator conducts telephone press conference, additional technical support staff on standby

9/22-23/15 – OPA publishes West Lake Update, announcing results of data summary and providing link to summary posted online